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**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON  
THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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**UNICEF Deputy Executive Director to Speak on the Sex and Labor  
Trafficking of Women and Children**

Toshiyuki Niwa, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, will be the featured speaker at the December 16, 2004 meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.

**Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons Meeting**

**Thursday, December 16, 2004, 9:30AM**

**Legislative Office Building, Room 2B**

**300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford**

Trafficking of persons is defined as the **buying, transporting, and selling of human beings for forced labor or sex**. The U.S. government estimates that between **18,000 and 20,000 people were trafficked in the U.S. in 2003**. Of the 600,000 to 800,000 persons

who were trafficked across the world in 2003, 80% of the victims were women and 70% of those women were **forced into sexual slavery**.

Mr. Niwa will address the Task Force about UNICEF's efforts to eliminate the trafficking of women and children. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has named the protection of children from exploitation, abuse and violence, including the trafficking of children, a **priority for 2005**. UNICEF is committed to operating at national, regional, and international levels to combat trafficking. Their efforts include poverty reduction, education and outreach, promoting legislation on trafficking, and victim services.

With the leadership of Senator-Elect Andrea Stillman (D-20), the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons was established by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2004 by Special Act 04-8. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has a seat on the task force, and will also provide research and support. The task force includes elected officials, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and providers of services to victims, all working to ensure that Connecticut can identify and assist trafficking victims within its borders.

For additional information on the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, please contact the PCSW at 860.240.8300 or email ([pcsw@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pcsw@cga.ct.gov)).

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was established by the CT State Legislature in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental position and works with state agencies to assess programs and practices as they affect women.

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